

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of broadcasting a message having a text portion to be communicated to a user, the method comprising broadcasting the message in the form of an entitlement management message for reception by the user, wherein the method is performed in a conditional access digital television system, wherein the message includes at least one identifier to define a group of users for whom the message is intended and at least one logical operator defining how a plurality of said identifiers are to be combined to target said group of users.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, comprising selecting said group from the totality of users and including in said message at least one identifier to define the selected group.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein each identifier is an identifier of a group having a particular characteristic.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the characteristic is selected from at least one of geographic area, customer category, subscription to a particular commercial offer, purchase of a particular product, and purchase of a particular session.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the message includes a type identifier identifying that the message is intended for a group of users only.
8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the message includes a type specifier specifying that the message is of a type which includes a test portion.
9. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the message includes a priority specifier for specifying the priority of the message.
10. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the message includes a signature for verifying the contents of the message.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the message is encrypted.
12. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the message is repetitively broadcast at a predetermined cycle rate.
13. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating a message having a text portion to a user, the method comprising receiving at a receiver/decoder the message in the form of an entitlement management message, and outputting from the receiver/decoder a signal representative of the text portion for communication to the user, wherein the method is performed in a conditional access digital television system, wherein the message includes at least one identifier to define a group of users for whom the message is intended and at least one logical operator defining how a plurality of said identifiers are to be combined to target said group of users, the receiver/decoder applying said at least one operator to said plurality of identifiers to determine whether the user is in the group of users.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Original) A method according to claim 14, comprising determining whether the user is in the group of users and outputting said signal representative of the text portion if the user is in the group of users.
16. (Original) A method according to claim 15, wherein the determining step comprises comparing said at least one identifier with at least one identifier stored at the receiver/decoder.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Original) A method according to claim 13, comprising generating a signal for advising the user of receipt of the message by the receiver/decoder.
19. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the signal representative of the text portion is output in response to a request from the user.
20. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the signal representative of the text portion is output automatically by the receiver/decoder.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 20, wherein the signal is output automatically from the receiver/decoder in dependence on the value of a priority specifier included in the message which specifies the priority of the message.
22. (Previously Presented) Apparatus used in a conditional access digital television system for generating a message having a text portion to be communicated to a user, said apparatus comprising means for generating the message in the form of an entitlement management message for reception by the user, wherein the message includes at least one identifier to define a group of users for whom the message is intended, and wherein said apparatus comprises means for including in said message at least one logical operator defining how a plurality of said identifiers are to be combined.
23. (Canceled)
24. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 23, comprising means for selecting said group from the totality of users and means for including in said message at least one identifier to define the selected group.
25. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 23, wherein each identifier is an identifier of a group having a particular characteristic.
26. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 25, wherein the characteristic is selected from at least one of geographic area, customer category, subscription to a particular commercial offer, purchase of a particular product, and purchase of a particular session.
27. (Canceled)
28. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 22, comprising means for including in said message a type identifier identifying that the message is intended for a group of users only.
29. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 22, comprising means for including in said message a type specifier specifying that the message is of a type which includes a text portion.
30. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 22, comprising means for including in said message a priority specifier for specifying the priority of the message.

31. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 22, comprising means for generating a signature for verifying the contents of the message.
32. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 22, comprising means for encrypting the message.
33. (Currently Amended) Apparatus used in a conditional access digital television system for generating and broadcasting a message having a text portion to be communicated to a user generated by apparatus according to claim 22, comprising:
means for generating the message in the form of an entitlement management message for reception by the user, wherein the message includes at least one identifier to define a group of users for whom the message is intended, and wherein said apparatus comprises means for including in said message at least one logical operator defining how a plurality of said identifiers are to be combined; and
means for broadcasting said message including the at least one identifier and the at least one logical operator in the form of an entitlement management message to a user's receiver/decoder.
34. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 33, adapted to repetitively broadcast the message at a predetermined cycle rate.
35. (Currently Amended) A receiver/decoder used in a conditional access digital television system comprising means for receiving a message in the form of an entitlement management message having a text portion, and output means for outputting a signal representative of the text portion for communication to a user, wherein the message includes at least one identifier to define a group of users for whom the message is intended and at least one logical operator defining how a plurality of said identifiers are to be combined to target said group of users, the receiver/decoder comprising means for applying said at least one logical operator to said plurality of identifiers to determine whether the user is in the group of users.
36. (Canceled)
37. (Original) A receiver/decoder according to claim 36, comprising means for determining whether the user is in the group of users, said output means outputting said signal representative of the text portion if the user is in the group of users.

38. (Original) A receiver/decoder according to claim 37, comprising means for comparing said at least one identifier with at least one identifier stored at the receiver/decoder to determine whether the user is in the group of users.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Original) A receiver/decoder according to claim 35, comprising means for generating a signal for advising the user of receipt of the message by the receiver/decoder.

41. (Original) A receiver/decoder according to claim 35, comprising means for receiving a request from the user for output of the signal representative of the text portion.

42. (Original) A receiver/decoder according to claim 35, wherein the output means is adapted to output automatically the signal representative of the text portion.

43. (Original) A receiver/decoder according to claim 42, wherein the output means is adapted to output automatically said signal in dependence on the value of a priority specifier included in the message which specifies the priority of the message.

44. (Previously Presented) An entitlement management message used in a conditional access digital television system comprising a text portion for communication to a user, wherein the entitlement management message includes at least one identifier to define a group of users for whom the entitlement management message is intended, and wherein said entitlement management message comprises at least one logical operator defining how a plurality of said identifiers are to be combined.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Original) A message according to claim 45, wherein each identifier is an identifier of a group having a particular characteristic.

47. (Original) A message according to Claim 46, wherein the characteristic is selected from at least one of geographic area, customer category, subscription to a particular commercial offer, purchase of a particular product, and purchase of a particular session.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Original) A message according to claim 44, including a type identifier identifying that the message is intended for a group of users only.
50. (Original) A message according to claim 44, including a type specifier specifying that the message is of a type which includes a text portion.
51. (Original) A message according to claim 44, including a priority specifier for specifying a priority of the message.
52. (Original) A message according to claim 44, including a signature for verifying the contents of the message.
53. (Previously Presented) A signal comprising an entitlement management message used in a conditional access digital television system, the entitlement management message comprising a text portion for communication to a user, wherein the entitlement management message includes at least one identifier to define a group of users for whom the entitlement management message is intended, and wherein said entitlement management message comprises at least one logical operator defining how a plurality of said identifiers are to be combined.